

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to congratulate Mrs. DeClara Nixon Bailey on this auspicious occasion for a lifetime of magnificent accomplishments.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE VICTIMS, THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS, AND THE PEOPLE OF INDIA FOR THE LOSS SUFFERED DURING THE TERRORIST ATTACKS IN MUMBAI, INDIA, ON JULY 11, 2006

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the barbaric acts of terrorism that occurred yesterday in Mumbai, India and to introduce a resolution regarding this tragedy.

Innocent civilians were traveling on commuter trains during rush hour and seven deadly blasts took their lives. More than 200 were killed and 700 were injured. These appalling blasts created horror, chaos and mayhem in Mumbai, a city of 16 million people.

I've traveled to India four times and each time has been an awakening experience. When traveling in India, I realized the vivacity of the culture and the people.

I would like to take this time to reach out to my Indian-American constituents in the 23rd District of Florida. I am deeply concerned for your loved ones back in your native land. I am praying for you and your family and hope the recovery is quick and steady.

The country of India was founded on the principle of nonviolence and it continues in the international fight against terrorism. I believe anyone who would want to inflict pain and terror onto the people of India should be denounced and prosecuted.

Upon finding out about the blasts in Mumbai yesterday, I immediately felt sorrow. I was reminded of how our nation felt after 9/11 and how India was amongst the first nations to express its condolences to the U.S. following the attacks. On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I wish to express my condolences to the Government of India and her people. We stand with you today, we stood with you yesterday, and we will stand with you throughout the fight against terrorism.

I urge my colleagues to quickly pass this resolution.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DR. ASSAD KOTAITE

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, this August, The International Civil Aviation Organization will bid farewell to Dr. Assad Kotaite, who has served as its Council President for past 30 years.

The International Civil Aviation Organization, ICAO, is the United Nations agency responsible for setting the international standards of safety, efficiency and security for civil aviation.

Created in 1944 by 52 nations, its member States now total 189, all rallying behind one mission—ensuring the highest possible degree of safety and efficiency.

For the last three decades, one man has lead ICAO to unprecedented breakthroughs in aviation safety, Dr. Assad Kotaite. After 53 years of service to aviation, he is retiring from ICAO.

Dr. Kotaite and his wife, Monique, are in Washington, DC, this week. He is being honored by the community that has benefited from his expertise—the Departments of State and Transportation, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Transportation Security Administration, as well as the aviation industry.

Dr. Kotaite has earned immeasurable respect during his years at ICAO—first as Lebanon's representative on the Legal Committee, then as Secretary General, and for the last 30 years, President of the ICAO Council.

During this time, he has successfully dealt with a variety of challenges, both political and technical.

Time after time, he brought people together and negotiated a consensus on the most difficult questions debated in the ICAO Council.

His work can be found on some of ICAO's most pressing issues, including a multilateral agreement that yielded the North Pacific route system, the agreement on FIR boundaries in the Black Sea area, resolution of problems associated with the Dakar oceanic FIR and a compromise on transit problems between Cuba and the United States.

Dr. Kotaite was once asked what it was like to bring the divide between groups that didn't see eye to eye. He said:

Indeed, over the years, I have learned that the real secret in any negotiation is to first identify an area of common ground, no matter how small, and then to build upon it. It may not be the ideal solution, but at least it is workable and acceptable to all. Moreover, in international affairs, I firmly believe that one should avoid confrontation at all costs. It is essential that one listens to all parties and takes into consideration their point of view.

Perhaps his greatest legacy will be safety. Dr. Kotaite presided over the birth of the ICAO safety oversight program. Not content there, he then supported and encouraged the expansion of the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme to include all safety related annex provisions. And finally, at a recent meeting of the Directors General of Civil Aviation held in March of 2006, he worked behind the scenes to gain acceptance of the public availability of the findings of the safety audit—all within a ten year period—equivalent to the speed of light in international relations.

The traveling public owes a great debt of gratitude to this international civil servant for his dedication to aviation. I am pleased to recognize Dr. Kotaite for his accomplishments and contribution to aviation and I congratulate him on his distinguished career.

THE UNITED NATION'S INVALUABLE ROLE IN A POSSIBLE RESOLUTION TO IRAQ

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues about the importance of

the role of the much maligned United Nations. As Richard Holbrooke, a former U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. wrote in a column which appeared in the Washington Post on June 28, 2006 that the United Nations still serves U.S. foreign policy interests. It is imperative that the U.S. supports and asserts leadership on the issues before the U.N.

On June 15, 2006, two days after he returned from Iraq, President Bush sent two personal emissaries (Philip Zelickow, the counselor of the State Department, and the Deputy Treasury Secretary Robert Kimmitt) to meet with U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan and his deputy Mark Malloch Brown to discuss the coming introduction of the Iraq Compact, which requires the Iraqi government to implement a series of economic and political reforms in exchange for increased international aid. This meeting received surprisingly little public attention. Perhaps there is something in Mr. Brown's allegation that U.N. achievements are downplayed in America.

President Bush requested Mr. Annan's assistance in organizing international meetings that would lead to this agreement. On the same day, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki called Mr. Annan to make an identical request, a further confirmation that the U.S. needs the United Nations.

The U.N. has been treated carelessly by the current administration. The U.N. is facing a major budgetary crisis due to (mainly) U.S.'s insistence on a six-month budget cycle, as opposed to a two-year one. Congress is deadlocked on the issue of allocating funds to rebuild the U.N. headquarters complex in New York. The U.N. signature building, the 38-story East River office tower, is widely acknowledged to be the major building in New York most vulnerable to a terrorist attack. Yet the Department of Homeland Security has just cut New York's anti-terror fund nearly by half claiming that the security infrastructure in New York is firmly in place. If that is so, then why does the Secret Service close down FDR Drive that runs beneath the U.N. building every time there is a Presidential visit?

Mr. Speaker, I hope that our asking for help in resolving the Iraq question is the first of many issues on which we will work with the United Nations instead of undermining its position. Mr. Brown has already agreed to travel to Baghdad for preliminary meetings that will culminate in a high-level multilateral conference in the region later this year.

Our lesson is clear. We need the United Nations. Instead of weakening the U.N., we should strengthen it. A strong active United Nations would be invaluable in representing U.S. foreign policy interests abroad as well as resolving conflicts and leading negotiations in regions like Iran, Darfur, Afghanistan, Kosovo, etc.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Congress, I rise to enter into the RECORD, the opinion-editorial titled Turning to the U.N., Again, by Richard Holbrooke, published on June 28, 2006 in the Washington Post.

TURNING TO THE U.N., AGAIN
(By Richard Holbrooke)

In a little-noticed announcement in President Bush's news conference on June 14, the day he returned from Iraq, he said that he would send two personal emissaries to New York to consult with U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan on the political and economic future of Iraq. The next day, still with remarkably little public attention, Philip Zelickow,